

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following paragraph:

A method and apparatus for frame classification and rate determination in voice transcoders. The apparatus includes a classifier input parameter preparation module that unpacks the bitstream from the source codec and selects the codec parameters to be used for classification, parameter buffers that store previous input and output parameters of previous frames, and a frame classification and rate decision module that uses the source codec parameters from the current frame and zero or more frames to determine the frame class, rate, and classification feature parameters for the destination codec. The classifier input parameter preparation module separates the bitstream code and unquantizes the sub-codes into the codec parameters. The frame classification and rate decision module comprises M sub-classifiers and a final decision module. The characteristics of the sub-classifiers are obtained by a classifier construction module, which comprises a training set generation module, a learning module and an evaluation module.